and the G-8 countries to the Prime Minister's unilateral declaration on the Independence Day (August 15, 1998) of the unilateral moratorium on further nuclear tests and the offer of negotiations on 'No first Use' of nuclear weapons towards the goal of Global disarmament; and

(b) what further steps have been taken and are contemplated by Government towards the said goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Prime Minister's Independence Day speech received media coverage in Pakistan and China. There was however no official response to Prime Minister's Independence Day speech in these or the G-8 countries.

(b) At the Durban Summit of Non-aligned countries, India proposed and the Movement accepted that an international conference be convened in 1999 to arrive at an agreement on a time bound programme to abolish all nuclear weapons. At the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister reiterated this call. India has also proposed a new intiative at the UNGA aimed at reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons. India's commitment to disarmament remains undiluted and India would continue to work for global and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament.

US Remarks on means of Tackling Militancy by India

563. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attentions has been drawn to the remarks made by U.S. Under Secretary of State to the effect that India should restrain from adopting pursuit course to tackle the problem of militancy from across the border;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in the matter;

(c) whether Government will take up this issue with U.S. Government for its adopting double standards to tackle terrorism by it and advising others in a different way; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, during a briefing on August 26, 1998 reportedly said "we of course believe that all terrorism should cease". In the context of cross-border terrorism, he is reported as having said: "We understand there are very large military forces poised on each side, forces which could be used in event of attack, which might be misunderstood, or in the event circumstances get out of hand", and that "there heve been talks and we hope there will be continue to be talks to deal with the problems across the line of control (LOC)".

(b) and (c) Government has been consistently drawing the attention of the international community, through bilateral channels and in multilateral fora, to the issue of Pakistan's active and continued sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. This has in particular been taken up on a number of occasions with the US authorities. The US government has conveyed that they understand India's concerns and that the US takes a serious view of such terrorist activities. The US has also designeated the Harkat-Ul-Ansar as a terrorist organisation under US laws.

(d) Does not arise.

ढाका से अजमेर के लिए बस सेवा का प्रस्ताव

564. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बंगलादेश सरकार ने ढाका से अजमेर तक बस चलाने का प्रस्ताव भारत सरकार को भेजा है, यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में हुई प्रगति का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृत करने का विचार रखती है?